

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 /072 W

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R 221739Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0584

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06402

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: BGEN, LE, YS, UK

SUBJECT: INQUIRY BY NATIONAL CASH REGISTER RE LEBANESE

EMPLOYEE DETAINED IN YEMEN

REF: ATHENS 3020 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONTACTED FOREIGN OFFICE ON THIS MATTER MAY 22. BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADEN WAS BROUGHT INTO PICTURE EARLY ON BY DICK HIMSELF WHEN ON MAY 8 HIS BRIEFCASE CONTAINING PASSPORT AND PAPERS RELATING TO DEAL NCR WAS WORKING OUT FOR INSTALLATION OF COMPUTER IN LOCAL ELECTRICITY COMPANY WAS STOLEN AT BEACH CLUB. THIEF WAS IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF SECURITY SERVICES AND DICK WARNED NOT TO TELL ANYONE AND NOT TO RAISE HUE AND CRY. HE ONLY TOLD MEMBER OF BRITISH EMBASSY STAFF. HE ALSO GOT WORD TO LEBANESE EMBASSY IN SANAA, WHERE HE HAD APPOINTMENT MAY 15.

2. DICK WAS ARRESTED IN HIS HOTEL ROOM 2300 HOURS MAY 14, AND ALL HIS PERSONAL PAPERS, TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE'S PASSPORT, WERE TAKEN AT SAME TIME. BRITISH EMBASSY MADE LOW KEY EFFORT TO INQUIRE INTO REASONS AND PLACE OF HIS DETENTION, WITHOUT SUCCESS. IT ADVISED MRS. DICK TO PLAY DOWN INCIDENT IN ORDER NOT TO PAINT LOCAL SECURITY SER-
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VICES INTO A CORNER WHERE THEY WOULD FEEL THEY HAD NO

OPTION BUT TO CONTINUE DETENTION OF MR. DICK.

3. BY MAY 18, BRITISH EMBASSY ADVISED MRS. DICK TO INFORM ATHENS NCR OFFICE, WHICH SHE DID. BRITISH UNDERSTAND THAT ATHENS ALSO SAID IT WOULD INFORM LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS DICK'S RELATIVES IN LEBANON, ONE OF WHOM APPARENTLY IS A MR. DAOUD, WHO IS MEMBER OF LEBANESE SECURITY SERVICES. IT IS POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE LEBANON HAS NO EMBASSY IN ADEN, PDRY MAINTAINS REPRESENTATION IN BEIRUT.

4. ON MAY 19 BRITISH EMBASSY ADEN INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY BEIRUT OF CASE, ASKING THAT IT APPROACH LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO SEE IF ANY PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE BY THEM IN CASE. BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE HAS RECEIVED NO REPORT SINCE. IT SUGGESTS U.S. EMBASSY BEIRUT APPROACH BRITISH EMBASSY TO GET READING ON CHANCES OF PROGRESS THERE. FOREIGN OFFICE POINTS OUT THAT HMG FEELS LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THIS CASE SIMPLY ON BASIS THAT DICK'S WIFE IS BRITISH SUBJECT. IT WILL KEEP NCR INTEREST IN MIND. WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADEN WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT IT FEELS WISE IN THIS CASE.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL REMARKED TO US THAT SOUTH YEMENI AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE GETTING THEMSELVES INTO AN INTERNATIONAL MESS AGAIN. THERE IS NOTHING NEWER ON AMCIT TORHAN WHO IS STILL BEING HELD IN-COMMUNICADO SOMEWHERE IN SOUTH YEMEN. THIS CASE HIGHLIGHTS ONCE AGAIN DIFFICULTY PDRY GOVERNMENT HAS CONTROLLING ITS SECURITY SERVICES EVEN WHEN PRESUMABLY IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: FOREIGN OFFICE IS AWAITING REPORT FROM BEIRUT, EITHER FROM ITS OWN EMBASSY OR FROM US, THAT MIGHT INDICATE WHERE TO GO NEXT.

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